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Letter dated 13 August 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to enclose herewith the assessment of Bulgaria's presidency of the Security Council for September 2002 (see annex). The content of the assessment has been discussed with the other members of the Security Council.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Stefan **Tafrov**
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Annex to the letter dated 13 August 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Bulgaria (September 2002)

Introduction

Bulgaria's presidency of the Security Council coincided with the busiest period in the calendar of meetings of the United Nations since September is the month of the opening of the regular session of the General Assembly and the holding of the general debate, during which Member States are represented at the highest level. Nevertheless, in September 2002, the Council had a busy programme and considered a number of important issues.

During the month the Council held eight public meetings, two private meetings and two meetings with troop-contributing countries, and its members met on 16 occasions for informal consultations. The Council adopted three resolutions and one presidential statement, and the President was authorized on eight occasions to make statements to the press on behalf of Council members.

A major focus during the month was the high-level meeting held on 11 September and presided by the President of Bulgaria, Georgi Parvanov, devoted to marking the anniversary of the acts of international terrorism of 11 September 2001 and paying tribute to the memory of the victims of those terrorist acts.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria, Solomon Passy, presided over the meetings of the Council on the situation in Kosovo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Africa

Burundi

On 17 September the Security Council held a private meeting to consider the situation in Burundi. The Minister for External Relations and Cooperation of Burundi, Terence Sinunguruza, took part in the discussion in accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure and briefed the Council on the latest situation in the country.

The members of the Council expressed grave concern about the continuation of hostilities in Burundi, as a result of the refusal of the rebel groups to negotiate.

In a short statement to the press the Council deplored the continuing conflict and condemned the massacres committed in the Gitega region. The Council reiterated its full support for the mediation efforts of the Deputy President of South Africa, Jacob Zuma, and the President of Gabon, Omar Bongo, and the efforts of the United Republic of Tanzania to achieve an end to the fighting. The members of the Council called on the rebels to seize the opportunity to achieve a negotiated settlement to the conflict, within the framework of the Arusha process.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 6 September the Council met in informal consultations to consider the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The members of the Council discussed the possibility of organizing a high-level meeting of the Council devoted to the situation in that country with the participation of the Presidents of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of South Africa. The Council decided to hold such a meeting on 13 September and agreed on the format of the meeting.

On 13 September the Council convened in a private meeting, presided over by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria, to consider the situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Joseph Kabila, the President of Rwanda, Paul Kagame, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of South Africa, Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, participated in the meeting. The Secretary-General also took part in the meeting.

The Council heard statements by the Secretary-General, the Presidents of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of South Africa and the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Cameroon, Guinea and Mauritius. The President of the Council made concluding remarks.

The members of the Council expressed appreciation to the signatories of the Pretoria Peace Agreement. They commended the authorities of South Africa for the facilitation of the Peace Agreement.

The members of the Council welcomed the commitments expressed before the Council by the Presidents of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda regarding the voluntary disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration of ex-FAR and Interahamwe, and regarding the withdrawal of all Rwandan troops from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. They encouraged the parties to move ahead with the implementation of the Peace Agreement and stressed the importance of early progress to build confidence between the two sides. The members of the Council stressed the intention, on the basis of the will demonstrated by the parties and the recommendations of the Secretary-General in his latest report, to take the necessary decisions to review the mandate of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) so as to facilitate the implementation of the Peace Agreement by the parties, in support of the agreements achieved and the initiatives under way to reach a comprehensive peaceful arrangement in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and, on a larger scale, in the Great Lakes region. The members of the Council welcomed the agreement between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda on the withdrawal of Ugandan troops from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and cooperation and normalization of relations between the two countries. The commitment of the Congolese parties to achieving an inclusive agreement on the political transition was welcomed by the Council. In this regard the Council members expressed their full support for the efforts of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, Mustapha Niasse. They reiterated their full support for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and for all MONUC personnel.

On 27 September the Council held informal consultations on the report of the Secretary-General on MONUC. Following the consultations, the President made a statement to the press in which the Council members welcomed the measures announced by Angola, Rwanda, Uganda and Zimbabwe for the withdrawal of their troops from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, encouraged the States concerned to continue that course and emphasized the need for the withdrawal to be transparent and verified by MONUC. The members of the Council welcomed the steps taken by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to move towards settlement of the issue of the armed groups, particularly the prohibition of the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda. The Council called on the parties to secure a cessation of the human rights violations in the east of the country. The Council took note of the report on MONUC and noted its intention to study ways in which MONUC could extend support to the parties in the implementation of the Pretoria and Luanda agreements.

Eritrea and Ethiopia

Following consultations on 6 September the Security Council convened in an open meeting to consider the extension of the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE). The Council unanimously adopted resolution 1434 (2002) by which the mandate of UNMEE was extended for six months, until 15 March 2003, at unchanged levels of troops and military observers.

Liberia

In informal consultations on 24 September, the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Tuliameni Kalomoh, briefed the Council on the recent situation in Liberia. Following the informal consultations the President made a statement to the press, in which the Council members urged the three Presidents of the Mano River Union countries to continue meeting under the Rabat process, so as to further their discussions on the consolidation of peace for the subregion. The members of the Council noted the National Peace and Reconciliation Conference held in Liberia and urged the Liberian parties to cease all fighting immediately, to resort to dialogue for the peaceful settlement of the conflict, and to work with the international community to promote the conditions for free, transparent and inclusive elections in 2003.

The Council welcomed the appointment of the new Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa, Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah, and the new head of the United Nations Peace-building Support Office in Liberia (UNOL), and expressed support for their efforts to work with all parties concerned, including the Economic Community of West African States and the African Union, in promoting national reconciliation in Liberia and in the subregion.

Sierra Leone

In informal consultations held on 18 September the members of the Council considered the situation in Sierra Leone and the Secretary-General's latest report on the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL). In a statement to the press released by the President following the consultations, the Council members noted the ongoing challenges in consolidating peace and stability in Sierra Leone, particularly in strengthening the security sector. They agreed that the Government of

Sierra Leone and the international community must use the opportunity offered by the continuing security umbrella of UNAMSIL to make progress in those areas. The members of the Council took note of the Secretary-General's proposals for adjustments to the size and composition of UNAMSIL, and expressed their intention to respond to them in a resolution renewing the Mission's mandate. The members of the Council appealed to the donor community to continue providing financial assistance to Sierra Leone.

At an open meeting held on 24 September the Security Council adopted unanimously resolution 1436 (2002), by which it extended the mandate of UNAMSIL for six months from 30 September 2002. In the resolution the Council also urged UNAMSIL to complete the first two phases of the Secretary-General's plan for adjustments to the size, composition and deployment of the Mission, as the security situation improved and the capacity of the national security sector increased. The Council also urged UNAMSIL to negotiate support arrangements for the Special Court for Sierra Leone and encouraged the Mission to continue to support the voluntary return of refugees and displaced persons.

Somalia

On 24 September the members of the Security Council held informal consultations to hear a briefing on the situation in Somalia by the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs. In an agreed statement to the press, released by the President, the Council members reaffirmed their united and firm support for the reconciliation process for Somalia sponsored by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

The members of the Council strongly urged the parties, including representatives of the different regions, in accordance with the framework established by IGAD, to participate constructively in the conference scheduled to commence on 15 October 2002 at Eldoret, Kenya.

The members of the Council also emphasized the need for humanitarian aid personnel to be allowed safe access so that assistance could be provided to people in need.

Asia

Afghanistan

At an open meeting on 19 September the Security Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan, Lakhdar Brahimi, on the situation in the country. In his presentation he highlighted security and recovery as the most pressing challenges that the Afghan people were facing. He warned that if the international community failed to address those challenges fragmentation would become more entrenched, which would lead to a rise in extremism and increase the danger of the country slipping back into unrest and violence. He appealed to the international community to provide committed, sustained and generous support. On security, the Special Representative reminded the members of the proliferation of local conflicts and violence and noted the positive developments achieved recently in those areas.

After the briefing by the Special Representative the members of the Council met in informal consultations and exchanged views on the overall situation in Afghanistan and on the ways to continue to help the Afghan authorities to contain instability, improve the humanitarian situation and recover from 24 years of conflict and destruction.

The Council members agreed on the text of a statement to the press, in which they commended the Afghan Transitional Authority, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, the emerging Afghan armed and police forces, the International Security Assistance Force, and the coalition forces for their complementary efforts to promote improvements in security in Kabul and throughout the country. The members of the Council reiterated their full support to the Transitional Authority in speeding up, assisted by the international community, the process of rebuilding Afghanistan, and carrying forward the political process in accordance with the Bonn Agreement. The members reaffirmed their full support for the coordinating role of the United Nations in Afghanistan and the efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, in the accomplishment of his mandate.

Iraq

On 10 September the Security Council convened in private consultations to discuss the tenth quarterly report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) for the period June-August 2002. The Executive Chairman of UNMOVIC, Hans Blix, briefed the Council on his meetings in Vienna with the delegation of Iraqi officials on the necessary technical arrangements allowing the resumption of the inspections in Iraq. He presented information about the activities of UNMOVIC in reviewing the contracts under the oil-for-food programme pursuant to Security Council resolution 1409 (2002).

On 19 September the Executive Chairman briefed the Council on the Commission's readiness to resume the inspections in Iraq in response to the invitation of the Government of Iraq contained in a letter dated 16 September 2002 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq to the Secretary-General. The Executive Chairman proposed to the Council a schedule of the necessary steps to be taken to implement the requirements of Security Council resolution 1284 (1999) with regard to the inspection process.

On 25 September the Council met in closed consultations to hear an oral report on the implementation of the oil-for-food programme in compliance with resolution 1409 (2002). The Executive Director of the Programme, Benon Sevan, presented an update of the Programme's activities under the relevant Security Council resolutions.

Middle East

On 20 September at an open meeting the Security Council was briefed on the situation in the Middle East by the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General, Terje Roed-Larsen. The Special Coordinator emphasized the intensive work of the members of the Quartet in finalizing the road map for a just and lasting settlement of the Middle East crisis. He informed the Council that the members of the Quartet held three

meetings on 17 September 2002, including one with five Arab Foreign Ministers and one with Israeli and Palestinian representatives. The meetings were focused on the humanitarian situation, security issues, institutional reform and the political process.

After the briefing the Security Council reconvened in closed consultations. The members of the Council agreed on a statement to the press by the President in which the Council supported the statement of the Quartet issued in New York on 17 September and appreciated the involvement in the discussions of the Quartet of the Foreign Ministers of Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and the Syrian Arab Republic as representatives of the Follow-up Committee of the League of Arab States. The statement underlined the full support of the Council members for the efforts of the Quartet and their call on the Government of Israel, the Palestinian Authority and all States in the region to cooperate with those efforts. The Council members underlined the importance of achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East, based on all its relevant resolutions, including resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967, 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973 and 1397 (2002) of 12 March 2002, the Madrid terms of reference and the principle of land for peace.

On 23 September the Council convened in an open meeting to consider the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. The meeting was requested in a letter from the Permanent Observer of Palestine, on behalf of the States members of the League of Arab States and in his capacity as current chairman of the Arab Group, to the President of the Security Council. In the letter, the Arab Group requested that the Council consider the adoption of the necessary immediate measures to ensure an end to the current tragic situation and the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular resolutions 1402 (2002) and 1403 (2002).

In a letter dated 20 September to the President of the Council the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic supported that request.

In the course of all-day discussions the Council heard 45 speakers on the situation in the Middle East in the light of the recent upsurge in violence.

After a process of intense consultations, on 24 September, by a vote of 14 in favour to none against, with one abstention (United States of America), the Security Council adopted resolution 1435 (2002) submitted by Bulgaria, France, Ireland, Norway, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Europe

Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia*
United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

On 5 September the Security Council held an open meeting on the situation in Kosovo. The meeting was presided over by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria. The Council heard a briefing on the latest developments in Kosovo by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hédi Annabi. He stated that in the period since the Council had last been briefed on developments in Kosovo, the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK)

* As from 4 February 2003, the name of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was changed to Serbia and Montenegro.

had continued efforts to uphold the rule of law and moved forward in the preparations for the municipal elections to be held on 26 October 2002. UNMIK had also continued to work actively on creating conditions conducive to the return of minority communities. In other areas, UNMIK had continued discussions with the authorities of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on border issues and crossing points. Concerning the energy situation the Assistant Secretary-General reported that an international expert had been appointed to manage repairs to the Obilic power plant. At the same time he stressed that Kosovo was still facing critical energy shortages, and called upon donors to assist in that area. He also pointed out that the provisional institutions of self-government in Kosovo were still facing formidable challenges in different areas, and appealed for further engagement of the institutions together with UNMIK on those challenges. After the briefing, statements were made by all of the Council members and also by the delegations of Yugoslavia, Ukraine, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Denmark, on behalf of the European Union and associated countries. All the speakers expressed support for the efforts of UNMIK towards fostering the rule of law in Kosovo. Some delegations expressed concern about the security situation in Kosovo, emphasizing that lack of security might hamper the forthcoming municipal elections and might delay the return of refugees. UNMIK and KFOR were encouraged to take further effective measures aimed at containing organized crime and acts of violence.

Other issues

High-level meeting of the Security Council on the anniversary of 11 September 2001: acts of international terrorism

On 11 September the Security Council held an open high-level meeting convened to pay solemn tribute to the memory of the victims of the terrorist acts of 11 September 2001. The meeting was presided over by the President of Bulgaria, Georgi Parvanov.

The Council heard statements by the Secretary-General and by United States Secretary of State, Colin Powell.

On behalf of the Council the President read out a presidential statement, adopted unanimously by all Council members (see S/PRST/2002/25).

Following the President's statement, the Council observed a minute of silence.

Annual report of the Security Council to the General Assembly

At a public meeting on 26 September the Council members considered the draft annual report of the Security Council to the General Assembly for the period from 16 June 2001 to 31 July 2002. The Council was briefed on the report by the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, who pointed out that the draft had been prepared by the Secretariat in line with the revised format agreed by the Council in 2002. The format provided a guide to the activities of the Council in a concise manner. As an improvement of particular interest he noted the introduction to the report, which contained an analytical summary of the Council's activities.

The representative of Singapore introduced a list of improvements to the report in an explanatory note. Council members noted that the report had been improved considerably and had been made more analytical. However further improvements could still be made.

The annual report of the Security Council to the General Assembly was adopted without a vote.

Meetings of the Security Council with troop-contributing countries

During the Bulgarian presidency the Security Council held two meetings with troop-contributing countries.

On 18 September, pursuant to resolution 1353 (2001), the Council held a meeting in private with the troop-contributing countries to the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone.

On 19 September, the Council held a private meeting with the troop-contributing countries to the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

On both occasions the Council issued official communiqués.